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**For Immediate Release**

**CHAIRMAN PAI STATEMENT ON THE AIRWAVES ACT**

WASHINGTON, August 1, 2017 – Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai issued the following statement regarding the introduction by Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado and Senator Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire of the Advancing Innovation and Reinvigorating Widespread Access to Viable Electromagnetic Spectrum Act:

“I am grateful to Senators Gardner and Hassan for introducing the AIRWAVES Act. This bipartisan bill addresses an issue that’s critical to continued American leadership in wireless innovation: making available more spectrum for commercial use. I’m also very pleased that they have proposed a ‘rural dividend,’ under which 10 percent of proceeds from spectrum auctions would be devoted to increasing wireless Internet access in rural areas. This provision would go a long way toward closing the digital divide, which has left too many rural Americans in the analog era. I look forward to working with Senators Gardner and Hassan on their forward-thinking legislation.”

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*